

What is claimed is:

1. A method of decreasing the average daily feed intake of animals comprising: administering to an animal a supplement comprising substantially purified heme, said heme containing at least 1800 ppm iron.
2. A method according to claim 1 whereby the supplement is administered to the animals by adding the supplement to the animal's feed.
3. A method according to claim 1 whereby the supplement is administered to the animal ad libitum.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said administration is by oral administration.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said supplement is administered to animals in an amount greater than 0% and up to 10% by weight of the animal ration.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said supplement is administered to pigs.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said supplement is administered to a finishing pig.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein said supplement is administered to an animal selected from the group consisting of: a cat, dog, calf, lamb, chicken, turkey, duck, horse, goat, pig, llama, and human.
9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the heme is isolated from a blood source selected from the group consisting of porcine, bovine, ovine, equine, and avian species.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the blood source is selected from the group consisting of porcine and bovine.

11. A method according to claim 1 whereby the heme is substantially free of globin.

12. A method according to claim 11 whereby the heme contains at least 3500 ppm iron.

13. An animal feed supplement comprising: substantially purified heme, said heme comprising at least 1800 ppm iron.

14. An animal feed supplement according to claim 13 which is substantially free of other blood components selected from the group consisting of plasma, white blood cells, and platelets.

15. An animal feed supplement according to claim 13 which is substantially free of globin.

16. An animal feed supplement according to claim 15 wherein the heme comprises at least 3500 ppm iron.

17. An animal feed which is effective in decreasing the average daily feed intake of animals comprising: animal feed; and substantially purified heme.

18. An animal feed according to claim 17 whereby the animal feed comprises up to about 10% by weight of the substantially purified heme.

19. An animal feed according to claim 18 whereby the animal feed comprises up to about 5% by weight heme.

20. An animal feed according to claim 17 whereby the heme is substantially free of globin.

21. A method of improving the meat quality of animals comprising: administering to an animal a supplement comprising substantially purified heme, said heme containing at least 1800 ppm iron.

22. A method according to claim 21 whereby the meat quality factors improved are selected from the group consisting of meat color and drip loss.

23. A method according to claim 21 whereby the supplement is administered to the animals by adding the supplement to the animal's feed.

24. A method according to claim 21 whereby the supplement is administered to the animal ad libitum.

25. A method according to claim 21 wherein said administration is by oral administration.

26. A method according to claim 21 wherein said supplement is administered to animals in an amount greater than 0% and up to 10% by weight of the animal ration.

27. A method according to claim 21 wherein said supplement is administered to pigs.

28. A method according to claim 21 wherein said supplement is administered to a finishing pig.

29. A method according to claim 21 wherein said supplement is administered to an animal selected from the group consisting of: a cat, dog, calf, lamb, chicken, turkey, duck, horse, goat, pig, llama, and human.

30. A method according to claim 21 wherein the heme is isolated from a blood source selected from the group consisting of porcine, bovine, ovine, equine, and avian species.

31. A method according to claim 30 wherein the blood source is selected from the group consisting of porcine and bovine.

32. A method according to claim 21 whereby the heme is substantially free of globin.

33. A method according to claim 32 whereby the heme contains at least 3500 ppm iron.